

We must bring the air traffic control system and the way it's managed into the 21st century. We have the safest air travel in the world, but as more and more Americans take to the air, we need to make our system as efficient as it safe. The FAA expects passenger traffic to rise by more than 50 percent in the next 10 years. Freight traffic will almost double in the same period. Busier skies means we have to work harder to keep our skies safe and to keep planes flying on time.

So today I'm directing the FAA to develop a plan for broader reform of the air traffic control system and to report back to me in 45 days, building from fundamental principles. America's 21st century air traffic control system should provide 21st century high-tech service. The system must work better with its customers, the commercial airlines, and others who pay for the system. It must be able to look beyond next year's budget cycle and fund new technology we need over a multi-year period.

We must meet these challenges in a way that helps, not harms, everyone who is a part of the air traffic control system. And we must always keep safety at the top of our agenda. With other Government agencies and the private sector, I ask the FAA to look ahead to our ultimate goal, putting together a seamless, state-of-the-art system from coast to coast.

Now, until we work out a way to get Mother Nature to cooperate, storms, delays, and cancellations will always be with us. And the American people understand that. But they also understand that if we can photograph and analyze weather patterns from space, we ought to be able to tell passengers why they're delayed and for how long. If we can guide the space shuttle into orbit and back, we ought to be able to guide planes around thunderstorms safely.

We can do a better job. Starting next summer, with the help of everyone here today, we will. Again, let me say, Secretary Slater and to Jane Garvey and to all the people standing with me and all of you sitting out in the audience who had anything to do with this, this is the way our country ought to work in a lot of other contexts. I thank you for what you have done. I think we have to do more. But this summer a lot of people will

benefit from the enormous efforts you have made, and I am very, very grateful.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:21 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement on the United Negro College Fund's Technology Enhancement Capital Campaign

March 10, 2000

Today the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) announced the creation of its Technology Enhancement Capital Campaign, a technology initiative that will bring digital opportunity to historically black colleges across the Nation. Through a \$50 million contribution by Microsoft and key commitments from IBM and AT&T, UNCF will help empower students, faculty, and staff at all 39 UNCF member colleges by strengthening technology infrastructure and improving computer access. I applaud the creation of this partnership and strongly support the efforts behind it.

While computer and Internet access has exploded in recent years, America continues to face a "digital divide"—a gap between those who have access to information age tools and the skills to use them and those who don't. We cannot allow unequal access to deepen divisions along the lines of race, income, education level, and geography. I believe we can use technology to help make the American dream a reality for more citizens, and that is why I have made the effort to bring digital opportunity to all Americans a top administration priority.

My administration is committed to doing its part to ensure that all Americans benefit from opportunities created by information technology. But the Government can not and should not do this alone. That is why I will lead a new markets trip the week of April 9th—designed to mobilize significant private and public efforts to close the digital divide. Efforts like the Technology Enhancement Capital Campaign are inspiring examples of what can be done in partnership to meet this important goal.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 4

In the evening, the President traveled from Palo Alto, CA, to Los Angeles, CA. Later, he traveled to Beverly Hills, CA.

March 5

In the morning, the President traveled to Selma, AL, and in the evening, he traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

March 6

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald Arthur Mahley for rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Negotiator for Chemical and Biological Arms Control Issues.

March 7

In the evening, the President was joined by friends and Members of Congress in the Family Theater at the White House to watch the Super Tuesday primary returns.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas Dworkin to be General Counsel at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rudy de Leon to be Deputy Secretary at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald D. Sugar as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint John E. Neece as a member of the Community Adjustment and Investment Program Advisory Committee.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on February 18 and continuing through March 2.

The White House announced that the President will visit Pakistan as part of his upcoming visit to South Asia.

March 9

The President announced his intention to nominate Madelyn R. Creedon to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Stephen C. Duffy as a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint John J. Larivee, Jackie Rowe-Adams, and Michael Taylor as members of the Parents Advisory Council on Youth Drug Abuse.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Teresa Ghilarducci as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

March 10

The President announced his intention to nominate Marc Grossman to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate William A. Eaton to be Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of State.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 9

Madelyn R. Creedon,
of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration (new position).

S. David Fineman,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Norma Levy Shapiro, retired.